



XA-10243
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

SATO, Kenji et al.

U.S. Appln. No.: 10/521,431

Group Art Unit: 3682

Filed: January 14, 2005

Examiner: W. Joyce

For: STEERING COLUMN APPARATUS

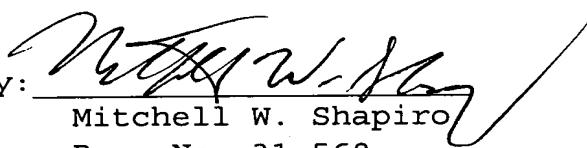
TRANSMITTAL OF INTERNATIONAL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

An English translation of the International Preliminary
Examination Report from the underlying PCT application is
submitted herewith for the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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May 10, 2006

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL
OF COPIES OF TRANSLATION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Rule 72.2)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)
20 January 2005 (20.01.2005)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
NSK2577PCT

International application No.
PCT/JP2003/009014

Applicant
NSK LTD. et al

To:

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IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

1. Transmittal of the translation to the applicant.

The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation made by the International Bureau of the international preliminary examination report established by the International Preliminary Examining Authority.

2. Transmittal of the copy of the translation to the elected Offices.

The International Bureau notifies the applicant that copies of that translation have been transmitted to the following elected Offices requiring such translation:

AZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, EP, GH, KG, KP, KR, MK, MZ, RO, RU, TM

The following elected Offices, having waived the requirement for such a transmittal at this time, will receive copies of that translation from the International Bureau only upon their request:

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3. Reminder regarding translation into (one of) the official language(s) of the elected Office(s).

The applicant is reminded that, where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report.

It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned (Rule 74.1). See Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide for further details.

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



Applicant's or agent's file reference NSK2577PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/JP2003/009014	International filing date (day/month/year) 16 July 2003 (16.07.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 17 July 2002 (17.07.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B60R 25/02, B62D 1/16, 1/18		
Applicant NSK LTD		

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>3</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.</p>	
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application 	

Date of submission of the demand 11 November 2003 (11.11.2003)	Date of completion of this report 05 January 2004 (05.01.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP2003/009014

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:^{*} the international application as originally filed the description

pages _____

pages _____

pages _____

, filed with the letter of _____

, as originally filed
, filed with the demand the claims

pages _____

pages _____

pages _____

pages _____

, filed with the letter of _____

, as originally filed
, filed with the demand the drawings

pages _____

pages _____

pages _____

, filed with the letter of _____

, as originally filed
, filed with the demand the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____

pages _____

pages _____

, filed with the letter of _____

, as originally filed
, filed with the demand

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)) the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages _____ the claims, Nos. _____ the drawings, sheets/fig. _____5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**^{*} Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-4	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-4	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-4	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Claims 1-4

None of the documents cited in the ISR describes the matter described in claim 1, "A steering lock mounting portion of a steering column contacts at least either the said steering lock or the said lock bracket with a contact face formed like a non-circular section." This matter is not considered to be obvious to a person skilled in the art either.

Therefore, the subject matter of claim 1 appears to be novel and to involve an inventive step.

Since the subject matters of claims 2-4 are dependent on claim 1, they also appear to be novel and to involve an inventive step for the same reason as stated for the subject matter of claim 1.

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